

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SURABA 00011 060431Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 EUR-12 /079 W

----- 116495

R 060400Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

SECSTATE WASHDC 0771

C O N F I D E N T I A L SURABAYA 0011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: EAST JAVA POLITICS

REF: SURABAYA A-27 OF 24 OCTOBER 75

1. LAST NIGHT I ASKED FLEET COMMANDER RUDY PURWANA HIS VIEWS ON RETIREMENT OF GOVERNOR NOER AND LIKELY INSTALLATION OF INTERIOR MINISTRY SEC GEN MAJOR GENERAL SUNANDAR AS HIS SUCCESSOR. RUDY SAID IT WAS NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN THAT SUNANDAR WOULD REPLACE NOER, SINCE SUNANDAR HAS ADVANCED SEVERAL PERSONAL REASONS FOR REMAINING IN JAKARTA AND PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING THEM.

2. RUDY WAS ELOQUENT IN HIS PRAISE OF NOER, SAYING THAT "HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO ME" AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE A MINISTER RATHER THAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. AS FOR SUNANDAR, RUDY SAID THAT EAST JAVA HAD ALREADY ACHIEVED SUFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT THAT HE "WILL START HIS JOB HIGH ON THE LADDER." RUDY WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT HE WOULD, OF COURSE, OUTRANK SUNANDAR AS A VICE ADMIRAL, AN INTERESTING INDICATION OF HIS POLITICAL PROMINANCE REPORTED REPAIR.

3. MOST OFFICIALS WHOM I HAVE QUERIED ABOUT THE SUNANDAR APPOINTMENT HAVE ALSO TAKEN THE LINE THAT A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT MOMENTUM HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN EAST JAVA, AND THE CHOICE OF A NEW
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PAGE 02 SURABA 00011 060431Z

GOVERNOR IS NOT CAUSE FOR APPREHENSION. NO ONE, HOWEVER, SEEMS

TO HAVE A READING ON SUNANDAR'S ABILITIES, AND THE BLAND JAVANESE
ASSURANCE
THAT "EVERYTHING IS FINE AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE PANCASILA"
SEEMS TO BE ABSENT FROM THEIR COMMENTS. THERE IS ALSO SOME RESENT-
MENT THAT JAKARTA REJECTED OUT OF HAND THE LIST OF FIFTEEN PROSPECT-
IVE CANDIDATES SENT FORWARD LAST OCTOBER, AND INSTEAD APPARENTLY
DEMANDED A NEW LIST WITH SUNDANDAR AND TWO NON-ENTITIES ON IT.
ON THE ORIGINAL LIST WERE SEVERAL KEY BUPATI'S CLOSE TO NOER, WHO
NURSED SOME HOPES OF REPLACING HIM. THE NEW GOVERNOR MAY THUS
START HIGH ON THE LADDER BUT MAY FIND THERE ARE SOME WHO MIGHT
TRY TO SAW IT OFF BENEATH HIM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SURABA00011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760003-0531
From: SURABAYA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760182/aaaacuvr.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SURABAYA A-27
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EAST JAVA POLITICS
TAGS: PINT, ID, (NOER), (SUNANDAR)
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006